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Newsletter

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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LARGEST RC&D PROJECT INCLUDES LANDS OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN TRIBES

Reservation lands of the Navajo and Hopi Indian tribes make up more than 11 million acres of the almost 16.1-million-acre Little Colorado River Plateau Resource Conservation and Development Project in Arizona.

Sponsors of this largest RC&D project ever approved include the two tribal councils, county boards of supervisors and soil conservation districts. The Soil Conservation Service provides leadership from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Sponsors hope to boost present incomes (more than 44 percent of the families earn less than \$3,000 yearly) through improved agriculture and forestry practices, increased tourism and better education for their children. More than 25 percent of the residents have had no formal education and there are no nearby vocational schools or institutions of higher education.



Some specific project measures would improve irrigation facilities, introduce specialty crops, develop public and private recreation and increase marketing and transportation facilities.

Irrigation ditches from 60 to 80 years old are still in use in many communities. Water loss as high as 70 percent is reported and crop failures from lack of water are frequent.

This project is one of 10 new RC&D projects declared eligible for planning assistance from USDA. The new projects are located in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and in the U. S. Virgin Islands. There are now 78 such projects underway in the United States.

VIRGINIA RURAL AFFAIRS STUDY COMMISSION
URGES DEVELOPMENT POLICY, STRONGER LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In its 1970 report to the State, the Virginia Rural Affairs Study Commission said:

"There are two basic elements involved in expanding the opportunities for Virginians on where they want to live.

"1) Adopting a statewide general development policy to make explicit what future distribution of population and economic activity Virginians want.

"2) A general upgrading of state and local government so they are able to use their resources to carry out the policy in an efficient and coordinated manner."

Created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1968, the commission covered a wide range of subjects in its report. Copies may be obtained from the Clearinghouse of Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Virginia, 22151, at a cost of \$3 per printed copy, sixty-five cents for a microfilm copy.

OLD CEMETERY BECOMES MEMORIAL PARK

In Pulaski, Tenn., they converted a shabby neglected cemetery into a municipal park without disturbing any graves by cleaning, restoring and relocating the headstones, and monuments. The design of the park also included the installation of walks, benches, lighting as well as landscaping.

No one had been buried in the Old Pulaski Cemetery since 1888 and maintenance had fallen off. With assistance from Open Space Land Program funds, the city transformed the blighted area into a serene and beautiful memorial area which serves as a park.

Single copies of an illustrated report on the pilot project may be obtained by writing: Robert Abernathy, project coordinator, City of Pulaski, 203 South First Street, Pulaski, Tennessee, 38478.

NEW SLIDE SET DEPICTS SUCCESS STORY IN KENTUCKY

A new slide set and film strip made available by the U. S. Department of Agriculture depicts in 58 full-color frames the story of successful rural development in the 10-county area around Bowling Green, Ky. Entitled "Tomorrow's America" (C-179), the set emphasizes the need for citizen participation in the development of a dynamic community.

Copies of this filmstrip can be purchased for \$6.50 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20011. Order the slide set for \$12.00 from Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Narration with music and inaudible frequency beep to change slides automatically is available from either source for \$2.25 as a cassette or \$2.00 as a 33 1/3 record. Record carries audible beep also.

FANTUS REPORTS TO USDA
ON INFLUENCING INDUSTRIAL LOCATION

In a report, to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, entitled "How Much Can We Influence the Growth of Industry in Rural Areas," the Fantus Company, a nationally-known plant locating firm, noted:

"Basically, it has to be remembered that the business executive entrusted with plant location decisions will continue to seek a site which so combines all locational factors as to give the lowest cost per unit of output.

"He will search for a plentiful supply of labor without sacrificing intelligence or skills, and a cooperative local attitude without limitation on his independence.

"He will look for minimum transportation costs with service of the kind he needs; reasonable labor costs with satisfactory productivity; moderately-priced sites with room for expansion; and pleasant surroundings with a modest cost of living.

"He will also want a tax structure which is healthy--with low rates but not so low as to jeopardize normal services. And in many instances, he will be interested in incentive industrial financing programs, provided that these do not make him sacrifice or compromise his locational objectives.

"To develop these facts our communities need the tools of location research."

The wide-ranging report of observations and recommendations is available in limited quantities without charge by writing the Editor, The Rural Development Newsletter, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

PUBLICATION TELLS HOW
COMMUNITIES BOOSTED ECONOMICS

In Nashville, Ga., folks heard that an industrial prospect doubted that the local labor supply was sufficient to meet their employment demands. An army of local citizens canvassed the surrounding counties to determine just how many were interested in new industrial jobs and available. They turned the list over to the prospective employer, who built a plant that hired 700 people and contributes more than \$3 million a year in payroll.

Further West, a team of "practical eggheads"--professional and technical staffers from Southern Colorado State College turned their talents to the development of the area in which they live, cut the red tape and started the 17-county Southern Colorado Economic Development District down the road of progress.

Details on these and 37 other accounts describing how various communities boosted their lagging economics are included in a publication of the Economic Development Administration entitled "Turning the Tide." Copies may be obtained by writing the Office of Public Affairs, Economic Development Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C. 20230.



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- 4 -

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Let's Consider Cooperatives, HUD-17-F (2). Over 2,040 cooperative housing projects with over 115,600 dwelling units have been sold to private-cooperative ownership under the HUD cooperative housing program since its inception in 1950.

The Historic Preservation Program. HUD grants, which cannot exceed \$100,000 for a single year, assist State and local public bodies with grants of up to 50 percent of the cost of acquiring, restoring and improving buildings, sites, or areas of historic or architectural significance.

Basic Water and Sewer Facilities Grants, HUD-100-Md.

All of the above may be obtained by writing Publications Service Center Supplies and Facilities Branch, Room B-258, HUD, Washington, D. C. 20410.

A compact booklet, "Federal Assistance in Outdoor Recreation," is available from the Superintendent of Documents for 50 cents. It describes sources of grants and loans available from Federal agencies for outdoor recreation planning, acquisition and development by State local and private applicants. Write Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

Also through Bureau of Labor Statistics the Government Printing Office, copies of Patterns of U. S. Economic Growth, (Bulletin 1672), 1980 projections of final demand, interindustry relationships output, productivity and employment are available for \$1.25.

